

REMARKS

Claims 2-11, 13, 14 and 77 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 14 and 77 are amended and claim 76 is canceled. Claim 77 is amended to address a rejection under 35 USC 112.

No new matter is added to the present application by this Amendment. Support for the new features added to claim 14 find support within allowable, canceled claim 76.

Entry of the amendments and reconsideration of the application are thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

As set forth in page 9 of the present Office Action, Applicants note with appreciation that claim 76 has been identified as containing allowable subject matter.

Applicants amended independent claim 14 to include the features of allowable claim 76 and subsequently canceled claim 76. Thus, Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Rejection Under 35 USC 112

Claim 77 was rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 77 has been amended to address the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Applicants submit that amended claim 77 is definite and in accordance with 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, second paragraph.

III. Rejection Under 35 USC 103

A. Nishiyama et al. and Sada

Claims 2-8, 11, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable by U.S. Patent No. 5,986,046 to Nishiyama et al. (hereinafter “Nishiyama”) in view of JP 63-023933 to Sada. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of amended claim 14 (which includes the features of allowable claim 76), this rejection is moot.

Withdrawal of this rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

B. Nishiyama, Sada and Jonas et al.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nishiyama and Sada in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,910,645 to Jonas et al. (hereinafter “Jonas”). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of amended claim 14 (which includes the features of allowable claim 76), this rejection is moot with respect to claims 9 and 10 which depend from claim 14.

Withdrawal of this rejection of the claims under 35 USC 103(a) is respectfully requested.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 2-11, 13, 14 and 77 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,
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